

Remarks

In the official action, the Examiner set forth a four-way restriction requirement. The Applicant elects claims 30-46 for examination in this application. The remaining claims have been canceled, but the Applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications with respect to those claims.

The claims have been amended to correct minor editorial errors and to delete many instances of the word "external" therefrom. It is submitted that none of these amendments in any way narrow the scope of the claims and, indeed, deleting the word "external" in the claims may well have the effect of broadening those claims somewhat.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this amendment, he is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss same.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Office with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents

POB 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

March 1, 2004

(Date of Deposit)

Corinda Humphrey

(Name of Person Signing)

(Signature)

March 1, 2004

(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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